

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 FEA-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-08

DRC-01 /138 W

----- 087602

R 150940Z MAY 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 980

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0317

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET-IRAQI RELATIONS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 6245; (B) MOSCOW A-128; (C) PRAGUE 365
(D) BAGHDAD 196

1. USSR-IRAQI RELATIONSHIP APPEARS TO BE GOING THROUGH PERIOD
OF VERY SUBSTANTIAL CONSOLIDATION SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH TOOK
PLACE DURING "NATIONALIZATION BATTLE" FROM JUNE 1972 TO
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MARCH 1973. IMPETUS APPEARS TO BE COMING MAINLY FROM SOVIETS

BUT IRAQIS ARE IN RECEPTIVE MOOD, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF SERIOUS THREAT FROM IRANIAN SUPPORTED KURDISH INSURGENCY. PRESIDENT BAKR IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT MOSCOW THIS YYEAR. RUSSIA'S EASTERN EUROPEAN PARTNERS ARE ALSO VERY ACTIVE, APPARENTLY IN SEARCH OF SECURE OIL SUPPLIES (REFS B AND C).

2. IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS IRAQ HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING PROMINENT RUSSIANS: MINISTER OF DEFENSE MARSHAL GRECHKO; EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF IZVESTIA; MINISTER OF PETROLEUM SHASHIN; MINISTER OF INTERIOR SHILIKOV; DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF FRIENDSHIP AND CULTURAL SOCIETIES, WHO CONCLUDED CULTURAL ACCORD; MINISTER OF FISHERIES ISHKOV, AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS TALZIN. THESE VISITS LASTED FROM THREE (GRECHKO) TO TEN DAYS (SHASIN) AND GAVE IIMPRESSION OF BEING VERY MUCH WORKING VISITS.

3. ONE OF POTENTIALLY MOST SIGNIFICANT ACCORDS CONCLUDED IS PROTOCOL SIGNED ON MAY 6 PROVIDING FOR CREATION OF JOINT VENTURE FOR FISHING IN ARAB GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN. COMPANY CAPITALIZED AT 10 MILLION IRAQI DINARS (34 MILLION DOLLARS), 51 PERCENT OF WHICH IRAQI AND 49 PERCENT SOVIET. COMPANY TO BE BASED IN BASRA AND HAVE IRAQI CHAIRMAN AND SOVIET VICE CHAIRMAN. SOVIET INPUT WILL INCLUDE TRAININT, COLD STORAGE FACILITIES, AND FISHING BOATS. THIS AND OTHER FISHING ACCORDS WOULD SEEM TO COMMIT USSR TO MAINTAINING IRAQ'S UNHAMPERED ACCESS TO ITS GULF PORTS.

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